(c) whether these plants have effective waste disposal plants which prevent Radioactive hazards;

(d) whether it is a fact that the waste material is stored close to Periyar which was providing drinking water to Cochin; and

(e) if so, what action is taken to prevent harmful effect of these Radiations on human health?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Implementation of Recommendations of Mehrotra Committee

3643. SHRI ALADI ARUNA *alias* V. ARUNACHALAM: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 1884 given in the Rajya Sabha on 12th August, 1987 and state the number of States who have agreed to implement the recommendations of the Mehrotra Committee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): According to information available so far, the Governments of Arunachal Pradesh, Goa and Tamilnadu have agreed to implement the scheme of revision of pay scales of University and College teachers, communicated by the Central Government on June 17, 1987.

Telephones in the Villages of Madhya Pradesh

3644. SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of villages in Madhya Pradesh having population of more than 5000 which have no telephone facility;

(b) whether Government have prepared a plan to provide telephone connection at least to the bigger villages within a definite time-frame; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof and by when these will be provided at least public calls offices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) 'NIL'. All the villages having population of more than 5000, as per 1971 Census, have been provided with telephone facilities.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) In the 7th Plan it was proposed to provide telecom. facility on fully subsidised basis at the principal village in every inhabited geographical area bounded by a hexagon of 5 km. side. But due to the curtailment of funds it was decided that 1|3rd of such villages which are not having telephone facility, may be provided with telephone facility during the 7th Five Year Plan. Out of 6103 inhabited hexagons in Madhya Pradesh, 2836 hexagons had been covered upto 31-3-1985 leaving 3267, 1|3rd of which *i.e.* 1100 are targetted to be covered upto 31-3-90.

Performance of N.C.E.R.T.

3645. SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that in the 'Seminar' organised by the 'Federation of Publishers and Book-sellers Association of India' and the educationists present there, voiced their concern over the performance of the N.C.E.R.T. in regard to publishing and distribution of text books; and

(b) if so, what remedial steps Government propose to take to ensure that the teachers and students feel satisfied about the quality of printing and timely receipt of the books?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) and (b) In a Seminar on Book Publishing organised by the Federation of Publishers and Booksellers Association in India on 22nd April, 1987, some speakers had expressed concern about the quality of N.C.E.R.T. Textbooks and the delay in their distribution.

The NCERT has continuously striven to produce books of quality, authenticity and have endeavoured to arrange their availability in time.. The NCERT has been consistently winning prizes for excellence in production of books and during this year alone seven awards for excellent printing and designing of books has been won.

NCERT books are being distributed through the Sales Emporia of Ministry of Information and Broadcasting located in various parts of the country. NCERT has, in an effort to further streamline the distribution of books, appointed 14 wholesale agencies in the U.T. of Delhi on an experimental basis.

Trained Doctors for Tribal Areas

3646. SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMLY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the medical doctors are generally reluctant to serve in the interior backward tribal areas with the result that the posts of doctors in Primary Health Centres, mini Primary Health Centres and other Government hospitals in these areas remain vacant;

(b) whether the reasons for this attitude have been studied and if so, what steps are being taken to attract trained medical doctors to these areas which require medical care the most; and

(c) whether Government have proposed to making it compulsory for each doctor coming out of our medical colleges, to serve for a minimum period in such rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir. A Working Group was set up in 1983 by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to go into the matter of providing incentives to doctors to work in rural areas. To attract medical graduates to accept appointment in rural areas, the 8th Finance Commission on the suggestions of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has provided special funds to the States for providing the following incentives to doctors serving in rural areas and not allowed private practice:—

(i) A rural allowance equal to 25 per cent of the basic pay subject to a maximum of Rs. 250/- per month for the doctors serving in Primary Health Centres; and

(ii) House rent allowance at the rate of Rs. 150/- per month where the doctors are not provided residential accommodation..

In addition, the Finance Commission has made special provision of Rs. 53.52 crores for construction of residential quarters for the doctors. The hilly areas have been provided 30 per cent 'Mark-up' in the cost of construction.

(c) At present, there is no such proposal. However, due weightage is given to doctors who have served for at least 2 years in rural areas for admission to post-graduate courses.